

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #32]

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Interview

with

Vito Cacciola..

. . . .

by

Merton R. Lovett

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“(As well as remembered.)” 3/8/39

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by Merton R. Lovett

. . . .

(from memory)

“Right where you standa now, Mr. Lovett, whata you suppose happen?

“You does not knowa? Well, looka up. Looka up stairs.

“Yes, that is de water hose. But you does not know why he is on de ceiling.

“No, he does not puta out de fire, if I geta de conflagration. He's for shower bath. Often I taka bath. He refresha me.

“It is de clever derangement, huh? Wait I tella you. No, de water it does not maka de floor wet.

“It is a shower bath what I invent-ed. Nowhere else did you seea one. I explain de technique. You will be surpris-ed.

“Righta where your feet is I puta de tub. On dese hooks here and here I hanga de blanket of rubber. He is mucha like unbrella. When I fixa it and standa inside, only de top of head hasa visability.

“And believea you me I can getta hot water or de cold. Is it not great invention? To getta de water I turna on these two faucets by stove.

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2

"Oh, Mr. Lovett, do nota jump so. I is not turna on de water. I woulda not playa such a mean joke.

"Hah, Hah, you is taka no chances. You fear my mind mighta be absent? By gracious so he wasa one time. It causa much trouble and disgracement. Never will I forgeta again.

"Well, it happen-ed so. I hava some visitor, de ladies and their husband. I explains to them de shower bath. One of de womans standa where you was. She talka Italian. She say, 'You is smarta inventor, Vito, but I do not understand. How does you maka de hot rain?'

"'It is most simple, Mrs. Pasacelli,' I reply. 'When I turna dis faucet de cold water comes. To geta hot rain, I turna dis one. To maka warm rain like summer I turna dem both.'

"No! No! I cannot tella you. You might diabelieva me. You woulda think I was of a purpose de evil joker.

"No, she did never believe it was de accident. I am defeated with shame. I maka many enemies.

"Thana you, Mr. Lovett. You believa me. You hava de faith.

"When I maka remembrance, my heart it is sick. I ama de gentleman. I ama de man of peace.

"Oh, Mr. Lovett, saya no more. De busband, he was lika crazy man. He shouta, he maka threats. De womans screama. It sounda like battle.

3

"No, I was nota injured in de body. But de soul, he was mucha bruis-ed. They say they would geta de policemans. They say they would cutta my heart out. Oh, Miserere! It was de most awful disperience.

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"No, thank a de blessed Lord, de policemen dida not come. I tella Mrs. Pasacelli that I would buya de new hat. I praya her to forgiva me.

"Stopa de laugh, Mr. Lovett!! You maka me mucha angry.

"What? You cannot helpa it? You thinka of that woman's hat? You say it musta look like something de cat draga in? By jingo, it looka worser as that.

"And so you is sorry you laugh. All right, we forgetta it. There is de bell. Some customer calls.

"It is de little girl. Hello, honey bunch. Whata you want? What's that, dear. So you wanta de roller skates. I hava them not. Does you thinka this is de hardward store?

"Here, honey-bunch, I getta penny for you. He is one which is nica and shiny.

"Whata you say? You is mosta welcome.

"Sure, I lika de children. I lova them much. Does you nota know that it say in de Bible, 'Blessed are de little children?

"Does I wisha I have de family? Sometimes I does. But I hava de little nephew and de niece.

4

"My brother in Italy hasa six children. He's de educat-ed man. He's de professor. His daughter just getta married.

"Why don't I geta married? Hah, hah. Mr. Lovett. Does you not know that women wanta too much.

"I hava nickels and dimes only. Vito is de poor man. Who wanta to shara poverty?

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"No. De wife she would complain. She woulda say, 'Vito, I wanta de new dress. I wanta de nica house. Why you not buya me de automobile?' A man needa \$50,000 to buya a woman all de comforts and maka her happy.

"Besides, I lika to be much alone. I must reada and thinka. If a man hava wife, when can he read? If he geta married he will hava no opportunity to think.

"No! De womans is always talka. De wife woulda say, 'Vito, do this! Vito, don't do that!' How would I geta de quiet? Because I lika often de peace, I owna no radio. De wife would be worsa than radio. What man can shuta them up for long?

"Well, perhaps you can, Mr. Lovett. If you does you is de conception. Oh, excuse me, I meana de exception."